

WYCOMBE Wanderers' Amateur Cup luck held again on Monday, when they were drawn at home for the fourth successive round. Their opponents . . . Tow Law or Skelmersdale, depending on which of the Northern giants survive next Saturday's third round clash.

Last weekend Tow Law settled their second round replay with North Shields, the 1969 Cup winners, in spectacular fashion. After a goalless first half, they sent in six goals during the last 45 minutes.

One of their leading players is John Rosethorne, a member of England's amateur squad this season, who first appeared in the defence against Scotland last March. But he is not in the 16 to meet France at Dulwich tomorrow (Wednesday).

Tow Law raced to prominence at national level in 1969 with an extended run in the F.A. Cup, and the Durham club are always feared opposition.

Skelmersdale seek to repeat their Wembley appearance of a few seasons back. Then they missed a penalty in the first game before losing the replay heavily against Enfield.

This is their last excursion into the Amateur Cup. Next season they turn professional.

The Skems, as they are nicknamed, hail from Merseyside, lying on the outskirts of Liverpool, where Cup fever at present is rife due to both Liverpool and Everton's involvement at the quarter final stage of the F.A. Cup.

Skelmersdale had an easy task in dismissing Sutton Coldfield in round two. But it's anybody's guess as to which of the Northerners will win the right to travel down Wycombe way on February 27.



until Wednesday, but assistant team boss John Reardon commented on the draw yesterday; "Anything at home can't be bad".

Meanwhile club treasurer Roger Lee must have been licking his lips over the prospects of a good financial boost from the tie whichever side provides the opposition.

Seven thousand plus watched the Oldbury game, and at least that and more can be expected for the quarter finals.

Only other surviving Northerners, Whitley Bay will feel more than a little trepidation at the thought of a visit to last season's beaten finalists Dagenham.

The Athenians won by the only goal at Leytonstone on Saturday, and are shaping well for another Wembley bid.

At least one Athenian League side must reach the last four. Hayes, surprisingly easy 3-0 winners at Loughborough College in round three, entertain either Boreham Wood or Leatherhead, who replay after their 1-1 draw.

In fact, if Hendon lose next Saturday's second meeting with tough Cup fighters Slough Town at Dolphin Stadium, Wycombe will be left alone to carry the Isthmian League banner.

Ironically, it was Wanderers who dismissed last season's holders, League rivals, Enfield in round two. And to them a major responsibility lies in keeping the trophy inside Isthmian circles.

Whether it's Slough or Hendon for the last eight, the winners play away at shock side, Aveley. And the Athenian League first division leaders rocked the entire competition by defeating high ranking Liverpool side Marine.

Nonetheless they will start as underdogs.

THE DRAW

Wycombe Wanderers v. Tow Law or Skelmersdale

Dagenham v. Whitley Bay

Hayes v. Boreham Wood or Leatherhead

Aveley v. Hendon or Slough Town

Quarter-final ties to be played on Saturday, February 27, 3 p.m.

Also in the England squad this season has been Skelmersdale skipper John Turner, although like Rosethorne, he is omitted from the squad to play France.

Skems nonetheless boast both Paul Clemence and Hardcastle among Charles Hughes' selection, which included three Wanderers, Ted Powell, Paul Fuschillo and Larry Pritchard.

Wanderers' manager Brian Lee is away from the locality